

AI FORUM NEWSLETTER

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Prompt: World Teachers' Day 2025 honors teachers and embraces the theme 'Recasting Teaching as a Collaborative Profession.'

Photo Credit: Google Gemini

01/12

1. Hun Manet Says Teachers Catalysts of Cambodia's AI Transformation

ប្រសាសន៍របស់នាយករដ្ឋមន្ត្រី ហ៊ុន ម៉ាណែត គ្រូបង្រៀនគឺជាធនធានដ៏សំខាន់ក្នុងការអភិវឌ្ឍបញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិតនៅកម្ពុជា

Source: [Cambodianess](#)

On World Teachers’ Day, Prime Minister Hun Manet praised teachers as key drivers of Cambodia’s AI transformation, linking their role to the Pentagonal Strategy’s focus on human development and digital growth. Education Minister Hang Chuon Naron noted AI can support teachers in lesson planning and personalized learning, while UNESCO’s Esther McFarlane stressed teachers must remain central to inspire creativity and critical thinking. A two-day exhibition on “Utilizing AI Technology in Education” highlighted Cambodia’s growing commitment to integrating AI in education.



Source: iStoke

Reference:
Xinhua News Agency. (2025, October 6). Hun Manet Says Teachers Catalysts of Cambodia's AI Transformation. *Cambodianess*.
<https://cambodianess.com/article/hun-manet-says-teachers-catalysts-of-cambodias-ai-transformation>

2. Digital literacy, ethical AI key to Cambodia’s future

ការសិក្សាជំនាញឌីជីថល និងការប្រើប្រាស់បញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិតដោយមានក្រមសីលធម៌ គឺសំខាន់ណាស់សម្រាប់អនាគតនៃប្រទេសកម្ពុជា

Source: [Khmer Times](#)



Source: iStoke

Reference:
Taing, R. (2025, October 8). Digital literacy, ethical AI key to Cambodia’s future. *Khmer Times*.
<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501768886/digital-literacy-ethical-ai-key-to-cambodias-future/>

Cambodia’s digital future depends on digital literacy and ethical AI, with UNESCO urging inclusive education and responsible governance to counter misinformation and drive growth. With only 32% of Cambodians having basic digital skills, initiatives like the 2024 National Competency Framework and AI Readiness Assessment are key to shaping the National AI Strategy under the Digital Economy and Society Policy (2021–2035). Progress is seen in tools like Khmer Braille and Sarika AI, but challenges remain with deepfakes and limited STEM inclusion. UNESCO stresses boosting AI literacy and critical thinking to ensure technology is human-centered, rights-based, and inclusive for sustainable development.

3. WTO Says AI-Related Buying Binge and a Spike in US Imports Spur Unexpected Rise in Goods Trade

អង្គការពាណិជ្ជកម្មពិភពលោក (WTO) បានលើកឡើងថា ការកើនឡើងនៃការទិញផលិតផលពាក់ព័ន្ធនឹងបច្ចេកវិទ្យាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI) និងការនាំចូលនៅសហរដ្ឋអាមេរិកបានបណ្តាលឲ្យមានការកើនឡើងលើសពីការរំពឹងទុកនៅក្នុងពាណិជ្ជកម្មទំនិញជាសកល

Source: [Kiripost](#)



The World Trade Organization (WTO) has revised its 2025 global goods trade growth forecast to 2.4%, up from under 1%, driven by AI-related demand for semiconductors and telecom equipment. WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala noted AI goods contributed 42% to global trade growth in the first half of the year, spurred by U.S. imports and strong trade among developing countries. However, the outlook for 2026 is pessimistic, predicting a slowdown to 0.5% due to trade headwinds and geopolitical issues, highlighting both the short-term benefits of AI and the risks to long-term trade stability.

Reference:

Keaten, J. (2025, October 8). WTO Says AI-Related Buying Binge and a Spike in US Imports Spur Unexpected Rise in Goods Trade. *Kiripost*. <https://kiripost.com/stories/wto-says-ai-related-buying-binge-and-a-spike-in-us-imports-spur-unexpected-rise-in-goods-trade>

4. Secretary-General of ASEAN delivers Special Remarks at the UK–ASEAN AI Innovation Summit 2025, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

សុន្ទរកថាសំខាន់របស់អគ្គលេខាធិការអាស៊ាននៅក្នុងកិច្ចប្រជុំកំពូលUK–ASEAN AI Innovation Summit 2025 នៅទីក្រុងកូឡាឡាំពួរ ប្រទេសម៉ាឡេស៊ី

Source: [ASEAN Main Portal](#)



At the UK–ASEAN AI Innovation Summit 2025, ASEAN Secretary-General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn highlighted the bloc’s push for responsible AI through the ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and the upcoming AI Safety Network Declaration. With ASEAN’s digital economy set to reach USD 1 trillion by 2030, he stressed the importance of ASEAN–UK cooperation, particularly via the AUKDSTI, to advance AI in sustainable development and smart health.

Reference:

ASEAN Main Portal. (2025, October 6). Secretary-General of ASEAN delivers Special Remarks at the UK–ASEAN AI Innovation Summit 2025, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. <https://asean.org/secretary-general-of-asean-delivers-special-remarks-at-the-uk-asean-ai-innovation-summit-2025-in-kuala-lumpur-malaysia/>

5. Vietnam proposes three pillars for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

វៀតណាមស្នើសសរស្តង្គតិយ៍សំខាន់សម្រាប់សង្គម វប្បធម៌ និងសហគមន៍អាស៊ាន

Source: [VietnamPlus](#)

At the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community High-Level Forum in Malaysia, Vietnam's Deputy Minister of Home Affairs Cao Huy proposed three pillars to ensure inclusiveness in the era of AI and digital transformation: digital education equity, fair job access through reskilling and transparency, and inclusive governance rooted in ethics and human rights. He reaffirmed Vietnam's commitment to science, technology, innovation, and digital transformation as decisive forces for sustainable development, with the goal of placing Vietnam among the world's top 30 in the Global Innovation Index by 2045.



Source: iStoke

Reference:

VietnamPlus. (2025, October 8). Vietnam proposes three pillars for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-proposes-three-pillars-for-asean-socio-cultural-community-post330003.vnp>

6. Canada must turn its AI advantages into economic opportunities

សាស្ត្រាចារ្យផ្នែកសេដ្ឋកិច្ចសិក្សាពីផលប៉ះពាល់របស់បញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI) និងការបញ្ឈប់ការងារបុគ្គលិកបច្ចេកវិទ្យានៅតំបន់ឈូងសមុទ្រ

Source: [CityNews Halifax](#)



Source: iStoke

Reference:

Deschamp, T. (2025, October 8). Canada must turn its AI advantages into economic opportunities. *CityNews Halifax*. <https://halifax.citynews.ca/2025/10/08/canada-must-turn-its-ai-advantages-into-economic-opportunities-openai-exec/>

At Toronto's Elevate tech conference, OpenAI's chief global affairs officer Chris Lehane urged Canada to transform its AI strengths—such as top talent and abundant energy—into concrete economic opportunities. Warning against a “Maine scenario,” where raw resources are exported only to see value-added products imported back at higher costs, he stressed that Canada risks repeating this pattern with AI if it merely builds data centres and exports power without developing a full value chain. With the federal government drafting a national AI strategy and considering a sovereign cloud, Lehane argued that now is a pivotal moment for Canada to ensure its AI assets generate long-term domestic economic gains.

PUBLICATIONS

**AIF Insights No. 29
(2025) | From
Sandboxes to
Systems: Governing
AI-Driven Digital
Health Platforms for
UHC in Cambodia**

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Reference:

Engelking, E. J. (2025, September 12). *From Sandboxes to Systems: Governing AI-Driven Digital Health Platforms for UHC in Cambodia*. AI Forum. <https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/publications/aif-insights-no-29-2025-from-sandboxes-to-systems-governing-ai-driven-digital-health-platforms-for-uhc-in-cambodia/>

Cambodia's aspiration to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is inseparable from the country's ongoing digital health transformation. As Digital Health Platforms (DHPs) begin to connect patients, providers and payors, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is emerging as a driver of both efficiency and innovation by streamlining administrative processes, strengthening diagnostics and enabling new forms of patient engagement. Yet technology alone cannot deliver on UHC. The decisive factors will be governance and ethics: whether Cambodia can create regulatory and ethical spaces that allow innovation to thrive while protecting trust, data and equity. Practical solutions such as regulatory sandboxes, soft-law frameworks and virtue-based ethical approaches provide a pathway for balancing experimentation with accountability. Building alliances between the regulators (Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Post and Telecoms amongst others), private health service providers and technology developers will be essential. This article argues that Cambodia's next step is to align governance and ethics with implementation and issues a call to action for stakeholders to join ongoing activities and forums, such as the EuroCham Healthcare Forum 2025, to initiate collaborative regulatory sandboxes and long-term partnerships for digital health.

PUBLICATIONS

This article explores the geopolitics of mobile phone applications as platforms that shape digital sovereignty and global power. With billions of internet users and mobile subscriptions worldwide, mobile ecosystems such as Apple's iOS and Google's Android dominate global markets, while Chinese alternatives like Huawei's HarmonyOS, WeChat, and TikTok face restrictions due to political tensions and security concerns. These platforms extend beyond technology, functioning as tools of economic leverage, surveillance, and cross-border influence. The rivalry between Western and Chinese systems raises questions about data ownership, trust, and control of critical infrastructures. For developing nations, the competition creates both dependency and vulnerability, as they remain primarily consumers of foreign technologies. To avoid deepening the digital divide, emerging economies must strengthen infrastructure, promote digital literacy, and build regional and local capacity. The article argues that mobile applications sit at the core of digital geopolitics and will shape the future balance of technological power.

AIF Insights No. 30 (2025) | The Geopolitics of Mobile App Ecosystems: Power, Platforms, and Policy

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Reference:

Ros, S. & Chhem, S. (2025, September 13). *The Geopolitics of Mobile App Ecosystems: Power, Platforms, and Policy*. AI Forum.
<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/publications/aif-insights-no-30-2025-the-geopolitics-of-mobile-app-ecosystems-power-platforms-and-policy/>

AIF Insights No. 31 (2025) | Embracing the Transformative Power of AI

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming healthcare, transportation, and communication. This article traces the evolution and categorization of AI, while exploring ethical concerns such as bias and privacy. Emphasizing AI literacy and cross-sector collaboration, we argue for a responsible and inclusive approach to AI development that protects human values and enhances societal well-being.

Reference:

Say, V. A. & Ros, S. (2025, September 14). *Embracing the Transformative Power of AI*. AI Forum.
<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/publications/aif-insights-no-31-2025-embracing-the-transformative-power-of-ai/>

PUBLICATIONS

This paper examines the integration of Generative AI (GenAI) into Cambodia's education system and its impact on the teaching profession. While GenAI tools provide benefits such as personalized learning, real-time feedback, and student engagement, they also raise cultural, ethical, and technical challenges. GenAI cannot replicate human capacities for moral guidance, empathy, or cultural interpretation, and its Western-trained models risk misrepresenting Cambodian values and histories. The paper argues that educators remain essential as mentors, ethical advisors, and cultural interpreters, guiding students to critically engage with AI-generated content. Policy recommendations stress the need for teacher preparation in AI ethics, investment in Khmer-centric datasets, and a human-centered, culturally grounded strategy to ensure that GenAI strengthens rather than undermines education in Cambodia.

**AIF Insights No. 32
(2025) | Human
Educators in
Cambodia's AI Era:
Teaching Beyond the
Algorithm**

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Reference:

Kheang, K. & Lim, S. (2025, September 19). *Human Educators in Cambodia's AI Era: Teaching Beyond the Algorithm*. AI Forum.
<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/publications/aif-insights-no-32-2025-human-educators-in-cambodias-ai-era-teaching-beyond-the-algorithm/>

PUBLICATIONS

**AIF Insights No. 33
(2025) | AI,
Sovereignty, and the
Fragmentation of
Global Norms: A
Legal Pluralism
Perspective**

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Reference:

Pong, P. (2025, September 22). *AI, Sovereignty, and the Fragmentation of Global Norms: A Legal Pluralism Perspective*. AI Forum.
<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/publications/aif-insights-no-33-2025-ai-sovereignty-and-the-fragmentation-of-global-norms-a-legal-pluralism-perspective/>

Artificial intelligence (AI) increasingly challenges the state-centric foundations of international law and the conventional notion of sovereignty. Unlike traditional governance anchored in territorial authority, AI systems function transnationally, drawing on global datasets and shaped by multinational corporations and supranational institutions. This paper adopts legal pluralism as a conceptual framework to examine the fragmented and overlapping legal regimes that govern AI, encompassing national laws, international treaties, corporate standards, and ethical principles. It highlights how regional regulatory divergences—exemplified by the European Union’s rights-based model and the innovation-driven approaches of the United States and China—create normative conflicts and compliance challenges for global actors. While such fragmentation is often interpreted as a governance deficit, this paper argues that it can be re-conceptualized as polycentric governance, where multiple centers of authority coexist and interact without requiring a single locus of control. The analysis concludes that developing interoperable legal orders is essential for reconciling national autonomy with the need for transnational cooperation. Legal pluralism provides a pathway toward inclusive, adaptive, and ethically grounded AI regulation that balances sovereignty with global accountability.

PUBLICATIONS

**AIF Insights No. 34
(2025) | Hume,
Nāgārjuna, and AI: A
Fusion of
Philosophies for a
Digital Age**

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Reference:

Chhem, K. R. (2025, September 25). *Hume, Nāgārjuna, and AI: A Fusion of Philosophies for a Digital Age*. AI Forum.

<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/publications/aif-insights-no-34-2025-hume-nagarjuna-and-ai-a-fusion-of-philosophies-for-a-digital-age/>

This paper explores the intersection of David Hume's empiricism and Nāgārjuna's Madhyamaka philosophy as a framework for rethinking artificial intelligence. Hume's bundle theory of the self and Nāgārjuna's doctrine of emptiness both reject the notion of intrinsic identity, portraying persons and phenomena as dynamic processes rather than enduring substances. Recent scholarship suggests Hume may have encountered Buddhist ideas through Jesuit intellectual networks linking Asia and Europe, illustrating how cross-cultural dialogue shaped early modern philosophy. Read together, these perspectives illuminate the nonessential nature of AI systems. AI is not a metaphysical "machine mind" but a contingent constellation of algorithms, data, hardware, and social contexts. This process view emphasizes relational ethics, situating responsibility in human networks of design and governance, and encourages design humility by resisting myths of autonomous superintelligence. By adopting a fusion philosophy that draws on both Western empiricism and Buddhist metaphysics, we can approach AI as an interdependent, impermanent phenomenon, fostering more responsible and globally informed governance in the digital age.

PUBLICATIONS

**AIF Insights No. 35
(2025) | From
Medicine to Meaning:
A Buddhist Journey
through Being,
Knowing, and Acting
in AI**

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Reference:

Chhem, K. R. (2025, October 10). *From Medicine to Meaning: A Buddhist Journey through Being, Knowing, and Acting in AI*. AI Forum.
<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/publications/aif-insights-no-35-2025-from-medicine-to-meaning-a-buddhist-journey-through-being-knowing-and-acting-in-ai/>

From Medicine to Meaning: A Buddhist Journey through Being, Knowing, and Acting in AI explores how Buddhist philosophy reframes the discourse on artificial intelligence through an ontology of interdependence, an epistemology of the Middle Way, and an ethics of compassion. Moving beyond Western notions of autonomy and binary logic, the essay situates AI within a relational framework grounded in dependent origination (paṭiccasamuppāda) and non-self (anattā). It argues that intelligence should be understood not as independent agency but as a process arising from interconnected causes and conditions. Drawing on the Four Brahmavihāras—loving-kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy, and equanimity—the paper proposes a model of “compassionate design” where moral intention replaces mechanical compliance. The author’s intellectual evolution from medicine to education and history mirrors a shift from empirical control to contemplative wisdom. Ultimately, the essay contends that the true innovation in AI lies not in computation but in consciousness—inviting humanity to design intelligent systems guided by mindfulness, wisdom, and compassion.

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<https://cambodianess.com/article/hun-manet-says-teachers-catalysts-of-cambodias-ai-transformation>
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<https://halifax.citynews.ca/2025/10/08/canada-must-turn-its-ai-advantages-into-economic-opportunities-openai-exec/>

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<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/publications/aif-insights-no-34-2025-hume-nagarjuna-and-ai-a-fusion-of-philosophies-for-a-digital-age/>
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<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/publications/aif-insights-no-35-2025-from-medicine-to-meaning-a-buddhist-journey-through-being-knowing-and-acting-in-ai/>